

**MINUTES OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Room 210 Senate Building, State Capitol Complex
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

Members Present: Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair
 Rep. Michael T. Morley, House Chair
 Rep. Jack R. Draxler, House Vice Chair
 Sen. Scott Jenkins
 Sen. Stuart Reid
 Sen. Ross I. Romero
 Sen. Jerry Stevenson
 Sen. John L. Valentine
 Rep. Patrice Arent
 Rep. Bradley M. Daw
 Rep. Becky Edwards
 Rep. Don Ipson
 Rep. Kay L. McIff
 Rep. Dean Sanpei
 Rep. R. Curt Webb
 Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent: Rep. Douglas Sagers

Staff Present: Mr. Spencer Pratt, Fiscal Manager
 Lorna Wells, Secretary

A copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. **Call to Order.** Co-Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

2. **Dixie State College- Pres. Stephen D. Nadauld**

Pres. Nadauld discussed the mission of Dixie State College (DSC). Dixie is designated as the open access college in Southern Utah. They have a community college function, granting Associate Degrees, Baccalaureate Degrees, and selected Master's Degrees. Pres. Nadauld discussed the dramatic growth at DSC. He reported that they have had a 43% decrease in state funding. He showed the innovative ways DSC has used to accommodate the tremendous growth with less funding. Pres. Nadauld discussed their 2nd Century Strategies. They have analyzed their strengths and moved them into the opportunity set they have for the future. He discussed the "Dixie Portal." He showed a graph representing degrees and differing modes of delivering these degrees.

Co-Chair Urquhart asked if students could be at Dixie and then take courses at other institutions. Pres. Nadauld said replied they could do this. Pres. Nadauld mentioned that in a typical degree general education requirements would be expected to completed at DSC. Major requirements could

be on-line, hybrid, or other mechanisms. He discussed partnerships with other institutions for completing various courses.

Co-Chair Urquhart reported that it is very exciting to see the innovation that is taking place among the USHE institutions.

Sen. Reid asked for clarification on the portal approach. There is a consortium of universities in the Midwest that provide a Master's Degree in Community and Economic Development. This is an on-line program. Professors from many universities participate. A student applies to this university, and completes a degree without ever going to the campus. Pres. Nadauld stated that the DSC portal approach is very similar; but most people coming right out of high school are not quite ready for a Master's Degree level. So Freshman and Sophomores will be on campus. Individual contracts will be made with fulfillment partners, the end result will be a DSC degree. Sen. Reid is very supportive of this approach. He encouraged the Commissioner's office to look at this approach. There could be a consortium of universities in Utah and it would be supported state-wide throughout the USHE system.

Pres. Nadauld replied that this is a very viable model, and students can get the degree that they started. He is confident that this approach will lead to a much higher completion rate.

Co-Chair Urquhart said that the USHE system does have a great foundation and is very close to having something similar to this portal approach.

3. Weber State University - Pres. Millner

Pres. Millner stated that today is Weber State University (WSU) day on Capitol Hill. Weber State students will be demonstrating undergraduate research projects in the Capitol Rotunda. She discussed the three major innovation objectives: lowering costs, serving more students and increasing quality. She discussed the success of The Technology Enhanced Redesign of Mathematics (TERM) Program. It is a mixture of online and campus-based instruction. She explained the new trimester calendar, which has increased their summer enrollment by 30 percent since 2008. Pres. Millner explained the Fast-Track Associate Degree and the Laddered Degree. She reported on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway. Pres. Millner explained the CampusBookRentals program. Students can save up to 60 percent for used textbook rentals and up to 25 percent for digital texts.

The next main objective at WSU is to serve more students. Pres. Millner mentioned the enrollment growth at WSU. She stated that they have over 2,285 FTE students enrolled in on-line courses; which is 17 percent of WSU's total FTE enrollment. She discussed the broad number of on-line degrees and programs. WSU offered nearly 1,500 sections of hybrid courses and degrees in Fall 2011. They have started a new Mobile Apps Initiative, and Modularized Degree Programs. There are seven new structured Bachelor of Integrated Studies. Pres. Millner explained the increased quality initiatives that WSU is working on. She discussed some of the current research projects. WSU will be hosting the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). She discussed community-based learning, and capstone experiences, internship opportunities, and corporate partnerships. Like their star basketball player, Damian Lillard, WSU is focused on effectiveness and efficiency. She reported on the institutional outcomes as well as the community outcomes of WSU.

4. Southern Utah University - Pres. Michael T. Benson

Pres. Benson discussed the strength of the collective and collaborative force of all of the USHE institutions. Pres. Benson distributed a handout regarding Southern Utah University (SUU). SUU is the designated Liberal Arts College for the State of Utah. SUU is a private school experience at a public school price. Pres. Benson reported that quality education is very important at SUU. He discussed the high standards of their athletes.

Co-Chair Urquhart discussed the powerful and moving speech given at the recruit dinner, which he attended.

This year SUU ranked 71st on the Best Regional Universities from US News and World Report. Pres. Benson discussed the Shakespeare Festival and the revenue that is generated for the State. He reported on the success of the SUU gymnastics team. The goal of SUU is to engage students in a personalized and rigorous experiential education. Pres. Benson reported on their increased retention rates and graduation rates. They have funded 20 new faculty spots. He discussed the importance of completing a degree or certificate and the economic impact it has on the state. All incoming freshmen determine which of five tracks of engagement they will enter. He reported on some experiences of students and their success with these tracks.

5. University of Utah - President Elect David Pershing

Pres. Pershing reported on some of the successes of the University of Utah (U of U); which is Utah's Flagship institution. The U of U employs 15,000 individuals. He presented several different video clips regarding the innovation occurring at the U of U. He discussed the growth in on-line education. Students are looking for opportunities to take classes at various times, day and night. Much of the best education is not occurring in the classroom, but in laboratories with hands-on experiences. Pres. Pershing discussed the importance of a state-wide partnership with the USHE institutions. He reported on the success of the partnership with Dixie State College. He discussed the importance of building community through engaged learning or service learning.

Pres. Pershing explained the Vet Success program where employees from the Veteran's Administration Hospital mentor students who are veterans. He discussed the USTAR initiative and the return on investment this provides to the State. He explained some of the current research initiatives. The U of U's main business is education. More and more students from Utah were enrolled with less funding. He discussed the positive impact of the U of U entering the PAC 12 football program. Pres. Pershing explained some of his initiatives as he becomes the new president of the University of Utah. He discussed the problem of the U infrastructure. There are classrooms with water spraying out of the pipes and classrooms without lights. They are asking the legislature for money for repairs. The U of U supports the USHE priorities of compensation to retain faculty.

Rep. Arent stated her concern about the Governor's Recommended Budget and asked why the cost of living increase had not been recommended. She is very supportive of these budget priorities. She congratulated Pres. Pershing on the success of the Bennion Center.

6. Salt Lake Community College - Pres. Cynthia Bioteau

Because of the shortness time, Co-Chair Urquhart asked Pres. Bioteau whether she would like to present today or at the next meeting. Pres. Bioteau expressed appreciation to the Committee for the choice. She congratulated the other institutions on their presentations and the exciting and innovating approaches that are at all of the USHE institutions.

Rep. Draxler commended the Presidents of all of the institutions on the great job they are doing at their institutions. He stated that the State of Utah is unique and very fortunate to have such a high quality of presidents.

4. Adjournment.

MOTION: Sen. Romero moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Co-Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 9:45.

Minutes were reported by Lorna Wells, Secretary.

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Senate Chair

Rep. Michael T. Morley, House Chair